IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-24. (Canceled)

Claims 25-38. (Previously Canceled)

Claims 39-42. (Canceled)

43. (Currently Amended) A method for inhibiting IL-TIF-induced ~~differentiation or~~ proliferation of neutrophils or platelets ~~hematopoietic cells or hematopoietic cell progenitors~~ comprising culturing bone marrow or peripheral blood cells with a composition comprising an amount of soluble cytokine receptor comprising SEQ ID NO:3 sufficient to reduce proliferation of the ~~hematopoietic cells~~ neutrophils or platelets in the bone marrow or peripheral blood cells as compared to bone marrow or peripheral blood cells cultured in the absence of the soluble cytokine receptor.

44. (Canceled)

45. (Canceled)

46. (Currently Amended) A method of reducing inflammation or suppressing an inflammatory response comprising administering to a mammal with inflammation an amount of a composition of soluble cytokine receptor comprising SEQ ID NO:3 sufficient to reduce inflammation or suppress an inflammatory response.

47. (Currently Amended) A method of suppressing an inflammatory ~~immune~~ response in a mammal exposed to an antigen or pathogen comprising:

(1) determining a level of an antigen- or pathogen-specific antibody;

(2) administering a composition comprising a soluble cytokine receptor polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO:3 in an acceptable pharmaceutical vehicle;

(3) determining a post administration level of antigen- or pathogen-specific antibody;

(4) comparing the level of antibody in step (1) to the level of antibody in step (3), wherein a lack of increase or a decrease in antibody level is indicative of suppressing an immune response.

48. (Previously Added) The method of claim 43, wherein the soluble cytokine receptor further comprises a soluble CRF2-4 polypeptide (SEQ ID NO:33).

49. (Previously Added) The method of claim 46, wherein the soluble cytokine receptor further comprises a soluble CRF2-4 polypeptide (SEQ ID NO:33)

50. (Previously Added) The method of claim 47, wherein the soluble cytokine receptor further comprises a soluble CRF2-4 polypeptide (SEQ ID NO:33).

51. (Currently Amended) A method of suppressing an inflammatory response in a mammal with inflammation comprising:

(1) determining a level of ~~serum amyloid A~~ SAA protein;

(2) administering a composition comprising a soluble cytokine receptor polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO:3 in an acceptable pharmaceutical vehicle;

(3) determining a post administration level of ~~serum amyloid A~~ SAA protein;

(4) comparing the level of ~~serum amyloid A~~ SAA protein in step (1) to the level of ~~serum amyloid A~~ SAA protein in step (3), wherein a lack of increase or a decrease in ~~serum amyloid A~~ SAA protein level is indicative of suppressing an inflammatory response.

52. (Previously Added) The method of claim 51, wherein the soluble cytokine receptor polypeptide further comprises an affinity tag, label, chemical moiety, toxin, biotin/avidin label, radionuclide, enzyme, substrate, cofactor, inhibitor, fluorescent marker, chemiluminescent marker, cytotoxic molecule or an immunoglobulin Fc domain.

53. (Previously Added) The method of claim 51, wherein the soluble cytokine receptor further comprises a soluble CRF2-4 polypeptide (SEQ ID NO:33).

54. (Previously Added) A method of treating a mammal afflicted with an inflammatory disease in which IL-TIF plays a role, comprising:

administering an antagonist of IL-TIF to the mammal such that the inflammation is reduced, wherein the antagonist comprises a polypeptide or cytokine-binding polypeptide fragment of SEQ ID NO:3; and

wherein the inflammatory activity of IL-TIF is reduced.

55. (Previously Added) The method of claim 54, wherein the disease is a chronic inflammatory disease.

56. (Previously Added) The method of claim 55, wherein the disease is a chronic inflammatory disease selected from the group consisting of:

(a) inflammatory bowel disease;

(b) colitis;

(c) Crohn's disease;

(d) arthritis;

(e) asthma; and

(f) psoriasis.

57. (Previously Added) The method of claim 54, wherein the disease is an acute inflammatory disease.

58. (Previously Added) The method of claim 57, wherein the disease is an acute inflammatory disease selected from the group consisting of:

(a) sepsis;

(b) allergy; and

(c) infectious disease.

59. (Previously Added) The method of claim 54, wherein the polypeptide or cytokine-binding polypeptide fragment further comprises an affinity tag, label, chemical moiety, toxin, biotin/avidin label, radionuclide, enzyme, substrate, cofactor, inhibitor, fluorescent marker, chemiluminescent marker, cytotoxic molecule or an immunoglobulin Fc domain.

60. (Previously Added) The method of claim 54, wherein the antagonist further comprises a polypeptide or cytokine-binding polypeptide fragment of soluble CRF2-4 (SEQ ID NO:33).

61. (Currently Amended) An isolated soluble cytokine receptor polypeptide complex comprising more than one soluble receptor subunit, wherein at least one of the soluble receptor subunits comprises ~~comprising~~ a sequence of amino acid residues shown in SEQ ID NO:3, and

wherein a second soluble receptor subunits comprises a soluble Class I or Class II cytokine receptor, and

wherein the soluble cytokine receptor polypeptide binds IL-TIF or antagonizes IL-TIF activity.

62. (Previously Added) An isolated polypeptide according to claim 61, wherein the soluble cytokine receptor polypeptide ~~forms~~ comprises a ~~monomeric~~ heterodimeric receptor or homodimeric receptor complex.

63. (Previously Added) An isolated polypeptide according to claim 61, wherein the soluble cytokine receptor polypeptide further comprises an affinity tag, label, chemical moiety, toxin, biotin/avidin label, radionuclide, enzyme, substrate, cofactor, inhibitor, fluorescent marker, chemiluminescent marker, cytotoxic molecule or an immunoglobulin Fc domain.

64. (Currently Amended) An isolated soluble cytokine receptor polypeptide complex consisting of two soluble receptor subunits, wherein at least one of the soluble receptor subunits consists ~~consisting~~ of a sequence of amino acid residues shown in SEQ ID NO:3, and

wherein a second soluble receptor subunit consists of a soluble Class I or Class II cytokine receptor; and

wherein the soluble cytokine receptor polypeptide binds IL-TIF or antagonizes IL-TIF activity.

65. (Currently Amended) An isolated polypeptide according to claim 64, wherein the soluble cytokine receptor polypeptide ~~forms~~ comprises a ~~monomeric~~ heterodimeric receptor or homodimeric receptor complex.

66. (Previously Added) An isolated polypeptide according to claim 64, wherein the soluble cytokine receptor polypeptide further comprises an affinity tag, label, chemical moiety, toxin, biotin/avidin label, radionuclide, enzyme, substrate, cofactor, inhibitor, fluorescent marker, chemiluminescent marker, cytotoxic molecule or an immunoglobulin Fc domain.

67. (Newly Added) The isolated polypeptide according to claim 61, wherein the soluble cytokine receptor polypeptide comprises a multimeric receptor complex.

68. (Newly Added) The isolated polypeptide according to claim 61, wherein the soluble cytokine receptor further comprises a soluble CRF2-4 polypeptide (SEQ ID NO:33).

69. (Newly Added) The isolated polypeptide according to claim 64, wherein the second soluble receptor subunit consists of soluble CRF2-4 polypeptide (SEQ ID NO:33).